

THE NARRAGHMORE DEMONSTRATION.

ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION OF MR. MICHAEL DAVITT.

(FROM OUR REPORTER).

The magnificent demonstration at Narraghmore on Sunday, both as to numbers and enthusiasm, far exceeded the expectations of its most sanguine organisers. It was not until the previous Wednesday that the committee of the local branch of the National Federation decided upon calling on the people of that important portion of South Kildare to assemble and give the lie to the assertions of the Factionists and their organs that Narraghmore was with the Pledge-breakers. This notice proved too short for Castledermot and some others of the neighbouring parishes, but nearly every Nationalist in the parish of Narraghmore itself was present, while Suncroft, Moone, Nurney, Kilcullen, and Athy sent large deputations. The Athy Nationalists were accompanied by their Leinster Street Fife and Drum Band, which has done yeoman service in the good cause, and in which there were no less than twenty-five performers. The Crookstown Band was also present. On the previous evening a telegram was received from Mr. Michael Davitt stating that he would accept the invitation of his old friend, Mr. Robertson, to attend the meeting, and accordingly he left Dublin accompanied by Mr. Swift M'Neill by the morning train. At Naas about half a dozen Factionists assembled on the platform to welcome Messrs. Carew and Leamy who travelled by the same train. These Naas followers of that gallant hillside man, ex-Sergeant Birmingham, C.T.C., set up a feeble groan for the founder of the Land League, and as the train left the station one of their number, in a sneaking and abashed manner, ran after it and affixed a piece of paper on which was scrawled the word "renegades" to the carriage window. Messrs. Davitt and M'Neill arrived at the Colinstown station where a large crowd awaited their arrival. They were received with the greatest enthusiasm, and were escorted in procession for a portion of the journey, the Crookstown Band, playing National airs, leading the way. Mr. Davitt was driven to the residence of Mr. Peter Cullen, Ballymore, where with some friends he was entertained at luncheon by that hospitable gentleman. A large crowd assembled outside Mr. Cullen's door and cheered the distinguished visitor for some time. The meeting was held opposite the courthouse at Narraghmore and a marked feature of the assembly was the large number of the labouring class present. A small force of police attended under the direction of District Inspector Crane, Athy, but all they had to do was to listen to the sound political doctrines enunciated by the speakers, and they seemed to pay particular attention to Mr. Davitt's speech. The success of the demonstration was in a great measure due to the exertions of the indefatigable hon. secretary of the Narraghmore Federation, Mr. Owen Connor, who, in the short time at his disposal, left nothing undone to make it a representative and important gathering. The proceedings commenced at three o'clock.

Amongst those present were—The Rev. J. J. Fennelly, C.C.; Rev. E. Kearns, C.C.; Messrs. Michael Davitt, J.G. Swift M'Neill, M.P.; Edward Fenelon, Chairman Naas Board of Guardians; P. J. Murphy, Chairman Athy Town Commissioners; Peter Waters, P.L.G., vice-President Narraghmore Branch; Peter Cullen, Treasurer, do.; Owen Connor, Hon. Sec., do.; T. Timmins, T.C., Athy; J. Toole, P.L.G.; P. J. Conlan, T.C., NATIONALIST; Carlrow; P. Cleary, P.L.G.; Christopher Heffernan.

The following deputations attended:—Athy—Messrs. S. G. Glynn, Daniel Carberry, senr. (Luggacurran campaigner); Michl. Murphy, Treasurer; John Lalor, Patrick Hylehan, Patrick Whelan, and Patrick Knowles and R. J. Clandillon, Hon. Secs. (with Messrs. Murphy and Timmins, mentioned above, and a band). Kilcullen—Messrs. Edward Fenelon, junr.; John Neill, Edward Neill, Matthew Fay, Denis Brennan, John M'Geire, Michael Neill, John Doyle, Thomas Keefe, Patrick Kelly, Thomas Kenny, and M. Leigh. Moone—Edward Hanlon, Thomas Cogan, Treasurer; John Hoey, Hon. Sec.; Darby O'Neill, James Glynn, George Hanlon, Hugh Cogan, William Connor, John Dunne, Timothy Conlan, Garret Doyle, Edward Butler, John Connor, Pat Kelly. Nurney—Messrs. James Merrin, James Deering, Hugh Nolan, Thomas Byrne, Thomas O'Beirne, and Thomas O'Beirne, Hon. Sec.

Narraghmore—Messrs. A. Costello, M. Kelly, W. Kelly, James Keegan, H. King, T. Masterson, P. Ryan, T. Mara, J. Brennan, T. Wright, A. Wright, M. Keegan, J. Dowling, P. Byrne, J. Byrne, M. Byrne, J. Cain, T. Murphy, E. Kelly, J. Doyle, D. Brennan, M. Hickey, P. Owens, W. Keatley, R. Archibald, M. Rielly, T. Ryan, M. Heffernan, James Neill, Michael Bermingham, John Lawler, E. Doran, J. Pitman, Peter Cleary, A. Lowry, M. Wright, Peter Kelly, Matt Leigh, P. Byrne, P. Byrne, senr.; J. Leechfield, Michael Jones, M. Doyle, W. Connor, W. Croke, J. Neill, A. Costello, T. Doyle, J. Delaney, T. King, John Connor, F. Bennett, J. Kehoe, J. M'Loughlin, J. Dunne, T. Leigh, M. Farrell, J. Murphy, C. Hennessy, T. Toole, Thomas Toole, J. Dempsey, John Dempsey, C. Trovers, H. Collins, P. Kelly, J. Kennedy, L. Dalton, M. Dalton, T. Dalton, J. Doyle, W. O'Toole, C. Duffery, John Kelly, H. Kelly, Peter Finn, D. Butterfield, P. Toole, J. Leigh, C. Dillon, J. Cullen, P. Byrne, J. Eustace, P. Fox, Edward Torney, Mathew Minch, P. Muldowney, Edward Lawler, junr.; Edward Lawler, senr.; Edward Doyle, E. Byrne, M. Kenna, J. Costello, Thos. Robertson, President; Michael Harrington, Ballymore.

Suncroft—Messrs. James Kelly, James Murrin, James Garry, Michael Byrne, John Power, Owen Conlan, Patt Cleary, Nicholas Cullen, Patt Murrin, William Byrne, Denis Cleary, John Toole, Patt Fox, Michael Howe, Patt Dooney, Thomas Kelly, Michael M'Donald, Richard Breen, Michael Dowling, John M'Evoy, James Dowling, Frank Byrne, James Power, Peter Brennan, Michael Dowling, senr.; Christopher Donohoe, Peter Toole, Patt Dillon, Michael Connell, Nicholas Kelly, Charles M'Evoy.

The following letters were received:—"Castledermot, County Kildare, "February, 5th, 1892. "MY DEAR SIR—I am thankful for your kind invitation to our branch to attend your very important meeting on Sunday, 7th inst. I regret that it will not be in my power to be with you as the usual monthly meeting of the Castledermot branch is also held on that day and almost at the same hour. Had we had a little longer notice of your proposed meeting I am sure a large number of our Federationists would be present. Wishing the good and true Federation men of Narraghmore every success on Sunday—I remain, yours very truly, "THOMAS RYAN, C.C." "Dunlavin, February 4th, 1892. "DEAR MR. CONNOR—The Very Rev. Father Donovan, P.P., V.F., who is president of our

branch of the Irish National Federation is also president of our sodality of the Sacred Heart, which holds its monthly meeting on the first Sunday of the month. By great attention the sodality has attained great success, both in numbers and in constant punctual attendance. The P.P. feels that to recommend our members to absent themselves from the monthly meeting would undo much of the good that has been done by persevering zeal and piety on the part of pastors and people. Both he and I regret very much that we cannot help you as we should wish, all the more because we gratefully remember your neighbourly visit to us on the day on which our branch was inaugurated. One thing is certain, if all could go hence whose hearts are with you, there would not be left behind one single genuine Nationalist, and not one dozen even of the nominal, those hybrid Orange-Catholics, emergency-patriots, whose motive ever was self or self in some form or other. For your invitation to myself I am very grateful. I cannot, however, promise for certain to go, anxious though I am to be present both for the National cause generally, and specially for the sake of my staunch and sterling brethren of South Kildare. Sick calls are many, and moreover I am only struggling out of a bad attack of influenza complicated with bronchitis. Hoping your meeting will be a bumper and an overwhelming crusher to Faction.—I remain, yours sincerely, "FRANCIS MACENERY, C.C."

"Northbarrington, Athy, 4th Feb. '92. "DEAR SIR—I have to thank you for your very kind invitation to your meeting on the 7th inst., and I would be most happy to be present but that I never attend public meetings on Sunday. I need hardly say how much I am in sympathy with the object of the meeting, and I have no doubt you will have a most successful gathering.—Yours sincerely, "JOHN A. DUNCAN. "Mr. Owen Connor."

Letters of apology were also received from the Rev. T. Guinan, Moone, and Mr. E. P. O'Kelly, P.L.G., Ballyglass.

On the motion of Father Fennelly, seconded by Mr. James Neill, the chair was taken by MR. THOMAS ROBERTSON, President Narraghmore Branch, Irish National Federation.

The Chairman, who was received with loud cheers, said—Brother Nationalists, I beg to thank you for the honour you have done me in placing me in the chair at your representative meeting to-day. You have had very little notice, and nevertheless you are here ready to stand by the good old cause, and when the day comes, and when a proper opportunity is afforded you, you will show that you are not going to be led by the nincompoops of the parish (A Voice—"This is no dunghill meeting," and laughter). Our first business here to-day will be to read an address to Mr. Michael Davitt (cheers), a man of the people, a man who has fought a hundred, ay, a thousand battles for the people, and who is prepared to fight them over again (loud applause). An address will also be presented to Mr. Swift M'Neill, an honest Protestant Home Ruler, who has identified himself with his Catholic fellow-countrymen with the object of securing for them fair play, and that is all they want (cheers).

The following address to Mr. Davitt was then read by the chairman:—"TO MICHAEL DAVITT, ESQ.

"DEAR SIR—In the name of the members of the Narraghmore Branch of the Irish National Federation and the patriotic people of the surrounding districts we bid you a sincere welcome to Kildare. We welcome you as a well-tried and an unselfish patriot, as a great Irishman, and an honest man, 'the noblest work of God' (cheers). We know your eventful history in the cause of country; we think of you sympathetically, with your parents, ruthlessly evicted by heartless landlordism from your home, and with them banished to a foreign shore. We think of you in the early days of your manhood striving for the emancipation of your race (applause). We think of you in the dock for Ireland and on false evidence convicted by a prejudiced jury. We think of your years in British bastiles, shut out from sympathising friends, from the world, and during your incarceration subjected to every species of hardship, indignity and insult. We see you emerge from your prison cell undaunted and ready as ever to take a leading part in the setting of your country free (cheers). Ere long we see you planting the Land League flag against landlordism on the ruins of your early home. Again you are imprisoned. Again set free. In the cities of the Far West you are by-and-by heard of, working in the cause of Ireland. In the busy hives of British industry you are found spreading the light and demanding justice for your race. On both sides the Channel you are heard preaching the gospel of the dignity of labour and unceasingly by voice and pen advocating the social improvement and mental elevation of the working man (cheers). In the work of reviving Irish industries you have taken a foremost part. In every movement for the good of the commonwealth you have been an earnest volunteer. No obstacles have discouraged you, no amount of labour has deterred or disheartened you. Difficulties in your path have never nerved you to further exertions. Hope has never died within you, and now there are indications on every side that the black pall of Toryism is about to be lifted from our land and the teachings you and other patriots have been inculcating to bear fruit in the great constitutional changes that are evidently at hand (cheers). We congratulate you on the prospect. The twin evils of despotism and landlordism have stood together and will fall together, and we hope and trust your life may be preserved long enough to see the one and the other levelled in the dust, Home Rule triumphant, the land in the possession of the people, and equality proclaimed as the inalienable birthright of every Irish creed and class, under the auspices of a Parliament in College Green (loud and prolonged applause).

"THOMAS ROBERTSON, President. "PETER WATERS, Vice-President. "OWEN CONNOR, Hon. Sec. "PETER CULLEN, Treasurer." Father Fennelly read the following address:—"TO J. G. SWIFTE M'NEILL, ESQ., M.P. "DEAR SIR—In the name of the Narraghmore Branch of the Irish National Home Rule Federation and people of the surrounding districts, we bid you a sincere and a hearty welcome to this part of Kildare. We greet you as one of that noble and liberal minded band of Protestant Home Rulers who have risen above the narrow prejudices of creed and class and united with your Roman Catholic fellow countrymen in the patriotic effort to free Ireland from a foreign domination that has brought her and her people to the verge of ruin (hear, hear). On every side are to be seen proofs of the English aristocratic misgovernment Ireland has for generations been subjected to; her population decreased by millions, and the young and the strong of her inhabitants still flying from her shores as from a plague, her naturally fertile soil half cultivated or waste, her trade and manufacturing industries things of the past, her peasantry the worst housed, the worst clothed and the worst fed in Europe. Her towns becoming villages, her villages becoming hamlets, and her hamlets wearing away. The education of her young, the very basis of a nation's prosperity, in a great degree a sham and a false pretence, the salaries of her teachers in-

adequate and themselves and their vocation despised. Military and armed police swarming everywhere, petted, pampered and lavishly paid. Coercion the rule. Trial by jury, free assembly, free speech and a free Press unconstitutionally restricted or abolished. The rack-renters, the plunderers of agricultural industry, the rapacious mortgagee, the inexorable money lender and the State collector of taxes, the only interests supported, protected, and legislated for by the Government (applause). To the reform and the abrogation of so iniquitous a state of things you have devoted your time, your energies, and talents in and out of Parliament. Subsequently to the exposure of Mr. Parnell in the Divorce Court you refused, with the majority of your colleagues, to desert or endanger the National cause for sake of the erring individual. Having consented to an alliance with the Liberal Party at the instance of Mr. Parnell you were not so unprincipled as to abandon that alliance at a critical moment for the Irish cause, and subsequent events have amply justified the action of you and your colleagues on the occasion. By this loyalty to an honourable treaty the crisis was safely passed, and at length there is a silver lining to the cloud. The democracy of England are shaking hands with the Irish democracy across the channel in the advocacy of Home Rule for Ireland. In the friendship and the union there is a happy augury of final victory. We congratulate you on a prospect of success you have so much contributed to, and we wish you long life and happiness in regard of what we trust will be before many days, a self-governed, a free, a contented, and a prosperous Ireland (cheers).

"THOMAS ROBERTSON, President. "PETER WATERS, P.L.G., V.P. "PETER CULLEN, Treasurer. "OWEN CONNOR, Hon. Sec. "JOHN J. FENNELLY, C.C. "E. KEARNS, C.C."

Chairman—My friends, why have you met here? I may tell you that this is virtually the first battle in the electoral contest for the representation of South Kildare (A Voice—"Sure there will be no battle") There will be a battle, and a bitter one. In this locality you have, many of you, heard of the three tailors of Tooley-street. These gentlemen when about to address an august meeting began with "We, the people of England," (laughter). In this parish we have history in this regard recurring, and, as in other parts of the constituency, there are a few cranks, nobodies, who are wiser a great deal in their generation than their clergymen, and doubly wiser than the bishops and archbishops of their church (laughter). These few cranks, like the three tailors of Tooley-street, insist that they elect a representative for the constituency of South Kildare, and in accordance with their notions they held a meeting on Sunday last (Voices—On the dunghill). And why did they hold it, of all places in the world, on a neighbouring dunghill? (laughter). Now, nothing could be more appropriate than the holding of it in such a place, for this reason, that there was rottenness below and rottenness above (laughter). Not only did they hold the meeting on this dunghill, but they imported two of the "troublesome lads" to assist them—Messrs. Clancy and Carew (A Voice—"They got a warm reception"). I wish to say a few words regarding James Leamy—I am not going to say one word reflecting upon his private character. We elected James Leamy over the heads of the landlords and the money lenders, and as we confided in him we consider that before James Leamy adopted the programme of the "troublesome lads" he should have come down and taken the advice of his constituents who treated him so well (hear, hear). We have been challenged by Mr. Carew to put Mr. Leamy out of the position of our representative, and I for one challenged Mr. Carew and others to put him in (cheers). There has been a misrepresentation of my action in this regard, because what I meant was that I, in company with the electors of South Kildare, would put out Mr. Leamy and put in a man of your minds instead of him (cheers). Now I wish to say a few words to you as regards my humble self. The crime has been charged against me of being a Scotchman (A Voice—"It was lately they found out that"). Now, what I have to tell you is this, that I was an Irish Nationalist before Mr. Carew was born (cheers), and I am a Scotch Irishman at the present moment (cheers). More than that, I belong to the Celtic race that in Ireland and the Highlands of Scotland and in Wales are driving the landlords slowly but surely to their doom (cheers). Not only that, but we are converting the great Saxon race to our views, and at Rosendale the other day we proved it (cheers). Now, gentlemen, I thank you for hearing me so patiently. I have nothing more to say to you at present, because we have eminent speakers here to address you and inform you on the situation of affairs, and I will first ask Father Fennelly to read a resolution which will be put to you, and which will be seconded and supported by the following speakers.

The Rev. J. J. Fennelly, C.C., who was received with applause, said that the resolution he was about to propose not only voiced so to speak what they felt and thought about Mr. James Leamy but it also foreshadowed the result of the next election in that constituency (hear, hear). The Factionists assembled in Narraghmore on the previous Sunday alluded to Mr. Robertson. In fact their speeches were confined almost entirely to abuse of him and to the priests of the parish. The priests did not mind their abuse, but the Factionists seem to have found out after his forty-seven years residence amongst them that Mr. Robertson is a Scotchman (laughter). Why had they not found that out three years ago when they assembled at Colinstown to welcome him back after the two months which Mr. Balfour thought good enough for him in prison? If he is an objectionable Scotchman to-day why did the Parnellites present him with an address and testimonial on that occasion? (hear, hear). The time was when the Parnellites of this parish would have gone begging to the door to Mr. Robertson, and would have considered themselves honoured by getting one little line of a letter from Mr. Robertson (hear, hear). Now they have found out after all that time that Mr. Robertson was nothing but a Scotchman. If Mr. Robertson went about the parish and told the people not to mind the advice of their spiritual superiors—if he refused three weeks ago to give his money to the evicted tenants or if he had allied himself with the landlords, or evictors, or emergency-men, then indeed Mr. Robertson would be no Scotchman, but because he has taken an honest part in Irish politics they have set up this cry against him, and we all know the reason of that cry. Mr. Robertson is a clever man—these men are afraid of their lives that he would oppose Mr. Leamy at the next election, and if he did oppose him they might be certain that he would be carried to victory on that occasion (cheers). He would read for them four charges that had been brought against this county. First, it had been said that the priests in the priests are not Kildare men, and it was a fact that many of them are not Kildare men. Mr. Heffernan (groans) regards this as an important consideration, and he says that it would be a disgrace if Kildare men were led in politics by the priests. That, too, he has found out since Mr. Robertson became a Scotchman. He asked where were the third part of the priests in the struggle for the last twelve years. Let Mr. Heffernan tell them when the priests ever refused to help a struggling tenant for the last ten years (hear, hear). He says that he saw houses in this parish tumbled down

and the people dying of starvation, and with these wonderful eyes of his that he actually saw a child killed in its mother's womb, and that the priests of the parish never raised their voices against the system—that they tolerated and allowed such things (no, no). But they who were longer in the parish than this speaker knew there were not numberless evictions in the parish in recent years—they knew that no such things had taken place to any such extent (hear, hear). The last accusation which Mr. Heffernan had made against the priests was a mean one. It was that they would not have denounced Parnell were it not for Gladstone, but they all knew that the archbishops and bishops had denounced Parnell upon the moral question, which Mr. Heffernan and his friends are so fond of sluting their eyes against (hear, hear). He proposed—

"Resolved—That we call upon the patriotic priests and the Nationalist manhood of South Kildare to select a Home Rule candidate in the room of Mr. James Leamy; and in public meeting assembled we, the electors of Narraghmore and neighbourhood, pledge ourselves to use our utmost efforts, in conjunction with our brother Nationalist electors in other parts of the constituency, to return him triumphantly at the head of the poll despite the opposition of the Factionists, Tories, and landlords united in a base conspiracy to prevent it" (cheers).

Mr. Peter Cullen, Ballymore, who was received with applause, seconded the motion. He said he was glad to see around him the faces of men who know their duty and who will perform it (cheers).

Mr. Davitt, who was received with an enthusiastic outburst of cheering, then addressed the meeting. He said—Mr. Chairman and fellow-countrymen, I thank you most gratefully for your warm and generous welcome to this part of the "short grass" county. I am pleased to find myself in this district at a meeting composed of true Nationalists and the real manhood of this part of the county, and judging from what I have seen and heard to-day, I am perfectly satisfied that South Kildare is as safe for the National cause and the Irish Party as any constituency in the province of Leinster (cheers). I beg to return my thanks to the officers and members of the Narraghmore Branch of the Federation for the too eulogistic address which has been presented to me. In that document you have taken a very generous estimate, indeed, of the humble services it has been my honour and privilege to render in the struggle against Castle government and Irish landlordism; and though, like many of you, I am growing older in years and in experience, I assure you that in this particular fight against this twin curse of Ireland I feel as young in spirit and in hope to-day as I did fifteen years ago (cheers). In connection with the presentation of those two addresses to my friend, Mr. Swift M'Neill, and myself, there was a pleasing and an encouraging incident. First, we had a Catholic priest reading a warm welcome to a Protestant Home Rule member of Parliament (cheers), while we had a Protestant chairman presenting a similar compliment to a Catholic Nationalist (renewed cheers). This, fellow-countrymen, is the meaning of our National struggle—a struggle which, with God's blessing, will bring about in Ireland the truest union for which we pray, A UNION BETWEEN CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT NATIONALISTS

in one cause (cheers). I have learned that on last Sunday our friends, the Factionists, held a meeting in this very village. I believe the gathering was neither imposing in numbers nor of much significance in the matter of political eloquence or intelligence, but I regret to hear that on the occasion a great deal of dirt was flung on our worthy chairman, my old friend, Tom Robertson (cheers). I begin to understand now why he was subjected to that treatment when I learnt that the platform on the occasion was the village dunghill (laughter). Joking apart, I feel ashamed that any man or any men in this locality or in the County of Kildare could have treated Mr. Robertson as I learn he was treated on Sunday last. One of their arguments against him is, it seems, that he is a Scotchman. Well, he has given a fitting and conclusive answer to that ridiculous charge. He has told you what you all know to be true, that he was an Irish Nationalist before Mr. Carew was born (cheers). Long previous to the beginning of the political career of any man in the Factionist camp, Mr. Robertson was to the fore in Ireland as an able champion of the tenant farmer class, and from the first time he came to this country until now he has been one in sentiment, one in hope, and one in aspiration with the rest of the population of his adopted county (hear, hear). I say from this platform to-day—Shame on the man or men who could resort to a stupid and malignant argument of that kind (hear, hear). It is true Mr. Robertson was born in Scotland, and he has good cause to be proud of it (hear, hear), and let me say this—Who are, outside Ireland, to-day in these three countries the staunchest and the truest supporters of self-government for Ireland? They are Mr. Robertson's fellow-countrymen, and the enlightened population of Scotland are at the back of Mr. Gladstone in this struggle to give Home Rule to Ireland (cheers). I will leave our friends on the other side for a few moments, and I think that in this struggle between fatherland and fact that the true Nationalist sentiment and the true men of Kildare are overwhelmingly on the right side. I am pleased to know that at this meeting to-day there is a large element of the agricultural labouring class. I am glad, indeed, to see them here, and I have to congratulate them upon the enormous strides which their cause has made, not only in Ireland, but throughout Great Britain during the last few years. We see now Lord Salisbury, the head of the landed aristocracy of Great Britain, actually competing with Mr. Gladstone in a desire

TO SATISFY THE GRIEVANCES OF THE LABOURERS of the three countries. And if the Tory Prime Minister will prove himself in the coming session of Parliament equal to his premises, some measure of substantial relief and advantage to the agricultural labourers will be brought forward, and I am certain I can say this in behalf of the party to which my friend Mr. M'Neill belongs, that if any such Bill is brought into Westminster for the advantage of the agricultural labourers of England and Scotland, it must be extended to Ireland also. No effort that is made in the Imperial Parliament to advance the material interests of this important class, to give them freer access to the soil, to surround them with more of the comforts and more of the blessings of social life—no attempt of that kind will be made in Westminster without the Irish Nationalist representation insisting that similar Bills shall be brought forward for the agricultural labourers of Ireland; that is, until such time— which I now firmly believe is only a short period—when we will have the opportunity and the advantage in a Parliament of our own of taking up all your just grievances and legislating for them according to your ideas and the National sentiment of the country. One good result has followed from this unhappy domestic quarrel that has been going on in Ireland during the past twelve months, and strange to say little or no attention has been given to the significant fact either in our papers or on our platforms. What I allude to is this, that whereas two or three years ago it was extremely difficult to get our National leaders to say very much or do very much on the broad labour question—in fact they were rather inclined, I won't say shrink but to put off the discussion of the problem until such time as the Home Rule question was solved or settled—but now, as a consequence of the unhappy dissension that took place twelve months

ago, we find John Redmond and his friends (groans) challenging the Irish National party as to what their position is upon the labour question—

"At this point an individual in the crowd raised some interruption, and there were cries of "Put him out."

Mr. Davitt—Don't put anyone out. We are strong enough here to put up with one dissident. I don't want any man put out of this meeting, I don't care who he is. You interrupted me while I was talking about Mr. John Redmond. This gentleman, who some twenty short months ago

DECLARED IN A SPEECH AT RATHFARNHAM that anything like an organisation of the agricultural labourers, or artisans, or mechanics of Ireland for the advancement of their own interests would be a deadly danger to the National cause, is now trying to blarney you into the belief that you have in him an eloquent, an able, and an uncompromising champion (laughter). I hope most sincerely that this attitude of Mr. Redmond is not a pretence. I would be sorry to accuse him of acting the part of a hypocrite. I, however, will ask you, the agricultural labourers, who are present here to-day, and the rest of your class throughout Ireland, to what him and his friends closely in Parliament and elsewhere, and know whether they are as willing and as ready to demand legislation for the amelioration of your condition in Parliament as they are to make promises when they come to address you here in Ireland (hear, hear). Anyhow, come what may in Westminster or College Green, I am as certain as I am speaking here to-day that before many years go over that class of labour which has been worst treated in the past, those workers who received less remuneration for their toil—the agricultural labourers of Ireland and Great Britain—will find themselves at least in such a position as they can support themselves and their families as Christian men and civilised communities should be supported (loud cheers). If they want more land they must have it as long as there is land that is not tilled in Ireland (renewed cheers). I am not in favour of restricting the agricultural labourer to a miserable half acre, or one acre, or two or three acres, but to provide labour for those who have to earn their bread by the sweat of their brow; and I firmly believe that when we have a Parliament of our own which will have to legislate upon this question, and which will be called upon

TO REMEDY THE BUNGLING OF WESTMINSTER LAW MAKING,

I believe that the land question of Ireland will be approached as a great industrial problem—a problem that is to be solved in accordance with the natural rights and the industrial interests of the farmers and the agricultural labourers of the country (cheers). You have all heard during the past week of the Landlords' Convention in Dublin, or perhaps the news of that gathering did not travel as far as Narraghmore (laughter). I confess that when I read in the Dublin papers the particulars of that gathering I almost felt myself inclined, against my conviction and my life-long prejudice, to pity the poor Irish landlords (laughter). They were assembled in the capital of Ireland deliberating how best to save themselves from bankruptcy, and certainly it was an occasion when one might be tempted to say "How are the mighty fallen." Fifteen or twenty years ago this very class was practically omnipotent in Ireland. The Government of England would wait upon their every word, and the Press of Great Britain would trumpet to the ends of the earth resolutions that might be passed at a meeting of landlords even of a county. I scanned some leading London papers the other day to see what amount of space they would give to the proceedings of the landlord convention in Dublin, and I found that two of the largest metropolitan daily papers gave one paragraph each to this convention. It appears that their chief object in this convention, apart from a protest against extension of honest county government to Ireland, was to make the Ashbourne Act and the Balfour Act work a little more smoothly in the country. One of the landlords named Captain O'Callaghan Westropp said, speaking with reference to these Purchase Acts, that

"He thought that purchase was the proper system of relief if they could get the tenants to purchase or to start the purchase in the different districts they would have done much." Yes, much would be done, no doubt, in the way of relieving the Irish landlords, but I am shrewdly of opinion that

THE TENANT FARMERS OF IRELAND WILL NOT PUT THEMSELVES OUT OF THEIR WAY—

will not go to too much labour, will not incur too much anxiety in order to bring relief to these impecunious landlords of the Captain O'Callaghan Westropp type (cheers). Another of them, one Dr. Traill, spoke very plainly also on the same sad theme, and this is what he said—

"He did not see how the landlords were to get relief except from the Ashbourne Act or from the Balfour Act."

This is the justification of the course which I took in 1885, when the Ashbourne Act was first passed. I warned the tenant farmers of Ireland to be careful how they touched that measure, and I ventured to rechristen it "The Irish Landlords' Relief Bill" (cheers), and here seven years afterwards I find Captain O'Callaghan Westropp and Dr. Traill declaring before the world that the only way in which they can get relief is by the working of the Ashbourne Act and the Balfour Act of last year. All I have got to say on this point here to-day is this. If the tenant farmers will put these Acts into operation at the present time they will regret it. Many of them think that a 20 per cent reduction on present rents is a great relief, and something worth striving for. Well, I admit that I agree that it is a tempting bait to hold to them; but I say this, that if they only bide their time, and wait until the Irish land property will have to be sold at its market value, they will receive not only a temporary abatement worth waiting for and worth fighting for, but they will get that relief from excessive rental burdens which Irish agricultural industry wants, and which must be given before the tenant-farmers will be ever in a position to pay just wages to Irish agricultural labourers (hear, hear).

THE REAL TROUBLE UNDERLYING THIS IRISH LAND QUESTION

is this, and I wish to impress it upon the minds of the tenant farmers here present—the landlords of Ireland are indebted through mortgage to English banks and English money lenders to the extent of one hundred and sixty million pounds to-day—a sum so vast that the mind can scarcely grasp it, an amount greater than some of the national debts of some of the Continental countries. Now, who is going to lift that debt off the Irish landed property? Will you, the tenant farmers? (Cries of "No, no!") Who incurred it? It was not your extravagance. You did not go to Monte Carlo; you did not run horses for the Derby; you did not parade any of the wasteful extravagance of the aristocracy in Rotten Row. This is, I maintain, a debt that was incurred by the Irish landlords themselves, and I say that they must bear the burden and bear the consequences (hear, hear). That enormous load must not be allowed to weigh down the agricultural industry of Ireland, as it is sure to do if you, the tenant farmers, follow the advice of Dr. Traill and Captain O'Callaghan Westropp, and go about urging your neighbours to put the Ashbourne Act and the Balfour Act into operation. Leaving the land question for a moment, I have a few words to say upon the prospects of Home Rule, and, thank God, since Rosendale those prospects are as bright as we could wish them to be (cheers). I am certain that at the coming general election, be-

in March or be it next autumn, a Home Rule Government will be returned by the electors of Great Britain and Ireland by an overwhelming majority (cheers), and I do not care what the proceedings of Mr. John Redmond may be, they cannot now prevent the triumph of the Home Rule cause.

A Voice—Send them over to Kitty O'Shea. Mr. Davitt—Never introduce names of that kind. It does no good, and it is unworthy of Irishmen. The folly of Factionism fortunately cannot arrest the progress of a cause which by the force of its own moral momentum, is

GOING ON BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS TOWARDS SUCCESS,

and in a comparatively short time, perhaps before we are three years older, we will at last see released the hopes and the expectations of our ancestors and our own yearning desires (cheers). Of course our friends on the other side—these desperate patriots who write down Mr. Swift MacNeill and myself as Whigs and renegades (laughter)—say that they have no guarantee that Mr. Gladstone's next Home Rule Bill will be satisfactory to the national aspirations of the Irish people. Well, I, for my part, believe that it will satisfy the national aspirations of Ireland. I am confident it will be a better measure—a more Democratic, and, consequently, a more acceptable one than the Bill of 1886; and I would say to our friends on the other side that it would be only common sense and political decency on their part to wait and see what the measure is before they attempt to denounce it in advance (hear, hear). The democracy of Great Britain, which is the backbone of the Home Rule movement in England, Scotland, and Wales, is thoroughly in sympathy with our Nationalist democratic aspirations. The workmen of England and Scotland are advanced Home Rulers; they are Radicals on this question as they are upon other issues, and they know as Radicals and as practical men that unless a satisfactory measure of Home Rule is given to Ireland it will not settle the Irish question, and their anxiety to have this question settled once and for ever is explainable upon the ground that they get the Irish question removed from Westminster to Dublin, then they will have a fair field to fight the aristocracy of Great Britain upon other great questions and other great issues (hear, hear). Therefore, I am confident that when Mr. Gladstone does bring forward his Bill in the next Parliament you will find that my prediction will be verified, and it will be a measure which all we Nationalists can accept in the belief that the application of such a measure to Ireland will satisfy its National aspirations and give its people every opportunity of making Ireland the home of a peaceable, a happy, and an industrious people (loud cheers). There is one subject, a somewhat personal one, upon which I would wish to say a few words before making way for my friend, Mr. Swift MacNeill. We have got a paper published in this country called the 'Daily Independent.' (A voice—'The Mule,' and laughter), and I was astonished on waking up the other morning to find that

THE ELEGANT ORGAN OF PIE-CORNER PATRIOTISM

had offered to me the very important constituency of North Wexford (laughter). Well, somehow or other I thought then, and I think now, that if the gentlemen behind the Independent had anything to offer they would not be likely to offer it to me (hear, hear, and laughter), and I have a shrewd suspicion that the reason why they went out of their way to suggest that both sections of the Irish Party should pay me the compliment of having me returned without opposition for North Wexford was because they knew right well that if they put a candidate forward there he would be left nowhere when the votes were counted (cheers). Well, I respectfully decline the offer. I am sorry to say that this same paper a few weeks ago held me up to my countrymen as a swindler (cries of "shame"), and compelled me, near the end of thirty years' service to Ireland, to go to law in order to defend my personal character and honour from the stigma they have sought to cast upon me. In almost every issue of this paper, from the first number to the present, I have been called a traitor and a renegade, because, in an emergency—in a crisis where I was compelled to choose between my country and a man—I took the side of Ireland (cheers); and this, forsooth, is the organ that want both sections of the Irish Party, in recognition to my life long services to return me without opposition for North Wexford. It would be a proud position for any man in Ireland to find himself the representative of that constituency, but I sincerely hope and believe that within the confines of Wexford a man will be found worthy to represent the sterling sentiment of that county—that a local man who, generally speaking, makes the best representative, will be put forward, and that Mr. John Redmond and his party will be asked to go down there and fight against this man for the prize of representing the constituency (cheers). One word about the paper and I have done. A few days before it went out of its way to make this generous offer to me it played another dirty trick upon me. It took out of a letter which I wrote to the 'Melbourne Advocate' on the 12th of November, a few paragraphs in which I certainly wrote very strongly about my friend Mr. Tim Healy (loud cheers). When I wrote that letter it was shortly after Mr. Healy had made some reference in a public speech to the unfortunate woman who led Mr. Parnell to ruin. I felt very strongly upon the language that was applied to that lady, and in my letter to this Australian paper I certainly used very strong language in reprobation of the words which I think, unfortunately, Mr. Healy made use of in his Longford speech. Well, I confess now that reading that portion of my letter, after the lapse of three months, my language appears harsh and unjust, and almost vicious towards Mr. Healy, and I regret it (cheers), because while he and I have more than once had passages with each other with reference to public policy, while he has said hard things of me, and I have struck back, that

HAS NEVER PREVENTED US FROM WORKING CORDIALLY TOGETHER IN THE INTERESTS OF THE NATIONAL CAUSE,

nor has it ever sundered the friendship which began between Mr. Healy and myself fifteen years ago. Now, why I call the insertion of that portion of my letter in the Independent a dirty trick, was this: Immediately after the paragraph to which I refer in this Australian letter I did justice to Mr. Healy in the following language, and if the paper in Dublin had only inserted this paragraph with the other portion of the letter I would have made no reference to it here to-day. This is what I said three months ago after scolding Tim for his bad tongue, and I am glad to have the opportunity of reading it here to-day:—

"It is ten thousand pities that Mr. Healy should impair his usefulness and mar the application of his great ability by a coarseness of language which none deplore more than his truest friends. His courage, talents, and indefatigable labours in the people's cause have won praise from even his enemies, and during the unhappy crisis which began a year ago no one has rendered more valuable or more conspicuous services on the side of the majority—if his ferocious Billingsgate be eliminated—than the member for Longford."

(Cheers). I think I have trespassed almost too long upon your patience, and I will conclude as I began with the language of hope and confidence. Notwithstanding this unhappy split which misguided men are trying to perpetuate without any cause, or rhyme or reason, notwithstanding all their efforts to prevent the Liberals of Great Britain from settling the Home Rule question, notwithstanding all their endeavours to disgust the friends of Ireland outside Ireland with the National cause, I believe that despite their misguided endeavours Home Rule will triumph and triumph magnificently in a very short time by the aid of the continuous efforts of true Nationalists in Ireland and with the accessory assistance that it will get from the sympathy and love of justice of the British democracy (loud and continued cheering).

Mr. Swift MacNeill, M.P., who was loudly cheered, then addressed the meeting. Referring to the case of the evicted tenants, he said that they

were the men who had stood in the gap and had saved the Irish tenants from the hopeless ruin designed for them by the landlords. The duty therefore lay with their brother tenants and with the Irish people to come generously to their aid, and sustain them until they were reinstated in their homes (cheers). As Mr. Davitt had pointed out the Irish landlords were now asking for relief. A few years ago these same landlords sent relief to the Irish tenants in the form of the bating-rim, which they presented to the Royal Irish Constabulary, to enable them to batter down the homes of the tenants. Were the Irish tenants going to relieve them now at the approach of the general election by joining them in a fraudulent contract to buy them out of holdings which belonged to the tenants? (hear, hear). No; the Irish tenants owed too much to the British democracy, to rob them in the interests of these needy landlords (cheers). Referring to the Factionist demand of details as to Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule Bill, Mr. MacNeill said their enemies were asking for details in order that they may cloud the main question and try to obscure the real issue (hear, hear). Was it likely that Mr. Gladstone, who had remained out of office for six weary years for the sole reason because he wished to do justice to Ireland and who was pledged to devote to that great object the best energies of his life—was it likely that he was going to destroy that great measure by making it an imperfect one? (hear, hear). Mr. Gladstone had over 50 years' Parliamentary experience, and in not showing his hand with regard to the Home Rule Bill he was acting in a statesmanlike fashion (hear, hear). And as to the bogey of the House of Lords, why even Lord Salisbury himself did not believe in that. The House of Lords would act wiser than to obstruct the Home Rule Bill (hear, hear). Dealing with the cry of religious bigotry, Mr. MacNeill said he was one of the persecuted minority (laughter), and he had been returned for the most Catholic constituency in Ireland, and by the aid of the Catholic bishop and the priests, by a majority of 3,000 over a gentleman who was both a Liberal Unionist and a Catholic, and who now was probably an "Independent Oppositionist" (cheers and laughter). In conclusion, he said they must show a united front, keep up their spirits, perfect their organisation, and if they did so he felt confident that, with the blessing of God, they would very soon have a Home Rule Parliament in College Green (loud cheers). The resolution was passed with acclamation.

Father Fennelly having been moved to the second chair,

Mr. Edward Fenelon, who was warmly received, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Robertson for his dignified conduct in the chair. Referring to the statements made there on that day week he said they were all sufficiently acquainted with Mr. Robertson to treat the Factionists' observations with contempt. They knew his integrity, his intelligence, his ability, perseverance and determination to stand by the tenant farmers and labourers of Ireland (hear, hear). Mr. Carew, it seemed, was stamping the county at present. He was performing the foolish operation which some Irishmen were said to be fond of long ago when they had "a sup in" of dragging his coat in the mud and crying out was their anyone to stand on the tail of it (A Voice—If he was here to day he would not do it). Mr. Carew said the Federation meetings were held in secret. He was happy to tell him that that meeting of the manhood of the country was not held in secret—They were assembled there on the high road of Narraghmore ready to meet him—and the day would come when his own constituency in North Kildare would meet him and tell him that they no longer required his services. Mr. Carew said that Mr. Robertson was a Scotchman and he drew a comparison between him and Mr. Leahy. Well, all he (speaker) would say about Mr. Leahy was that he was sorry he had got into such bad company (hear, hear). In Mr. Carew's speech there was not a single sentence which had originated in his own mind. The greater portion of it was a rehash of a report of a National League in America. That was the stuff which Mr. Carew thought good enough for the few "Johnny Raws" that came to listen to him on the previous Sunday (laughter). The duty of the people in the future is to stand by the majority of the Irish Parliamentary Party. It was not by the side of Mr. John Redmond, nor the Very Rev. Mr. Harrington, nor by any of these self-seeking Factionists, who pretend to-day that they are more honest and more patriotic than Mr. Davitt, who had shown more earnestness in one six months than the whole band of Factionists together had shown in all their lives (cheers).

Mr. Davitt—You will perhaps allow me to have the pleasure of seconding the vote of thanks, and I assure you it gratifies me very much to be in a position to do so. I have had the pleasure to know Mr. Robertson now for a long number of years, and before I came into active political life in Ireland I knew of him as a sterling champion of his own class, and as a man one in sympathy with the people amongst whom his lot has been cast (cheers); and I say we should honour Mr. Robertson more than if he was born in Ireland from the fact of being from Scotland, though of a kindred race to our own, as he told you. He identified himself here in Ireland with its people and with its National sentiment, and I am sure that if ever occasion requires that you should show your faith in Mr. Robertson and appreciation of his services in the National cause, you, the voters of this district, will not be wanting in your duty (cheers). Now I have been asked to say one or two words about a statement, among many others, that was made here last Sunday by Mr. Clancy, M.P. I may remark, before referring to this statement, that I have not been able to read the speeches delivered here a week ago. Life is too short a period in which to go over the flood of talk which is poured over the country by the men of the other side, and I seldom or never read a speech delivered by a Factionist unless I am told that it contains an attack upon myself (laughter). I must say of Mr. Clancy that I think he is the least offensive of the gentlemen on the other side. I cannot now tax my memory with the recollection of any bitter or uncompromising attack which he has made upon the majority who stood to the country in the hour of trial, but I see from this speech made by the member for North Dublin that he delivered the following extraordinary sentiment. He said—

"Would any man who was returned in 1885 have had the slightest chance of election if he had not been understood to be Parnell's man? Not even John Dillon or William O'Brien would have had the ghost of a chance of being returned if they had not been generally understood to be followers of Mr. Parnell."

I say that a more humiliating, a more degrading, and more anti-National sentiment could not be uttered. Why, what is it that we have been struggling for—what is it that we have been making sacrifices for for the last fifteen years? Was it for Ireland—was it for the National cause—was it for the freedom of our country, or was it for a man? Would the Irish race throughout the world—your generous kindred—have come to our assistance so magnificently as they have done in this fight if we were fighting not for principle, not for National self-Government, but for an individual (no, no). I am astonished that a man of Mr. Clancy's intelligence, and a man who has certainly rendered good service in the popular cause should have delivered himself of so unwarranted a sentiment as this. I say that the rock upon which we split in this crisis was one of hero worship and one man worship. It is the fault of the Irish people, not only in this generation, but in the last generation. We worshipped our leaders. If in this contest with landlordism and Castle rule we had fought for principle instead of for Parnell, or rather if we had given to our country all that was due to the country—if we had fought for that principle instead of putting all power and influence into one man this crisis would never have occurred (hear, hear). This is a National movement, a democratic movement. It sprung from the people, it was a movement of the people by the people for the people, and if Parnell were twenty times a greater leader than he proved himself to be, and I am not going to say a single word to belittle his prestige, Ireland and Ireland's cause stand infinitely above the interest or ambition of any single in-

dividual (hear, hear), and I say that any man should be scouted out of any Nationalist or democratic meeting in Ireland who would give utterance to such anti-democratic sentiments as those which I have read. It gives me great pleasure indeed to support this resolution.

The vote was passed with cheers, and The Chairman, in responding, said that in 1850 he backed up the late David O'Connor Henchy against Lord Cloncurry, and since that time he had been doing his little best to assist the generous people in acquiring their rights and their liberty (hear, hear). He was now pretty old in the cause, but he hoped to live to see a Parliament in College Green, and the Irish people free (cheers). The proceedings then terminated.

Messrs. Davitt and MacNeill, M.P., were entertained at dinner by Mr. Robertson, and both gentlemen returned to Dublin by the night train.

MARYBOROUGH TOWN COMMISSION.

An adjourned meeting of the Maryborough Town Commissioners was held at the Town Hall on the evening of Friday, 5th inst. The Commissioners present were—Messrs. P. Kelly, C.T.C. (in the chair), T. O'Neill, C. McDermott, A. Metcalfe, J. Kavanagh, J. Hipwell, N. Walsh.

A letter was read from Mr. John Cranny, to whom one of the Commissioners' store rooms is let, stating that the Town Clerk had demanded rent for the summer months, to which he objected. He was only willing to pay during the winter months.

The Town Clerk explained that Mr. Cranny did not follow the rule by delivering up the key during the summer months, and therefore he sought to charge him. The store was let at two shillings per week, and there was a sum of £5 due up to the 31st May next. Mr. Hanlon, who had another store, owed £4 up to that date, being two years' rent. Mr. Hanlon always handed over the key when done with it.

Mr. McDermott—Mr. Cranny keeps the key, perhaps, in order to prevent anyone else from getting the place.

The Chairman thought a concession should be made under all the circumstances, but suggested a better way of doing business the next time.

Mr. McDermott said there was some laxity in allowing two years' rent to accrue.

The Clerk admitted that, but it was not his fault, as he had demanded it repeatedly and did not get it.

Mr. McDermott was of opinion that anyone holding the key in future should be charged rent for the store.

On the motion of Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Kavanagh, the following resolution was adopted:—

"That the sum of £4 be taken in full from Cranny for the use of the store up to the 31st May, 1892, like rule to apply to Mr. J. Hanlon."

THE NEW RATE.

It was ordered that the clerk should prepare an estimate of the rate for the year 1892, to be laid before the commissioners for their consideration at the next monthly meeting.

ARREARS OF OLD RATE.

The Clerk laid before the meeting a list of the persons who had not paid their rates for the year 1891, the total being £5 5s. 5d. He said it would not be advisable, having regard to what the auditor told him, to strike off any of the names.

Mr. McDermott—What action do you propose taking?

Clerk—I would suggest that the matter be handed over to our solicitor.

The Chairman intimated the list, and it was ordered that it be handed to Mr. Roe, solicitor to the commissioners, in order that he might sue the parties for the recovery of the arrears due, those on unoccupied houses to be struck off as irrecoverable.

IMPORTANT TO SURETIES.

The Clerk also asked for an order instructing their solicitor to compel Messrs. John Moore and Thomas Russell, sureties for the late rate collector, to lodge to the credit of the Commissioners the sum of £4 17s., amount of rates collected but not lodged.

Mr. McDermott thought it rather hard to come down on these gentlemen who had every confidence that the money would be lodged.

The Chairman admitted it was a hardship, but the money was collected, and the commissioners were responsible to the ratepayers.

Mr. McDermott—They are accountable, no doubt.

Clerk—I have reason to know that they are willing to pay.

Mr. O'Neill—They are both honorable men, only they got into a hobble.

Mr. McDermott mentioned that he and the late Mr. Joseph Brennan went security for an officer at one time, and he thought it strange that in his absence it was stated that he (Mr. McDermott) had not paid his share of the money.

Mr. O'Neill—You did not pay the whole of it.

Mr. McDermott—I paid my portion of it.

Chairman—That is not before the meeting at present.

Mr. McDermott—So far as I was concerned, I did not shirk my responsibility.

Chairman—The commissioners accepted a lesser amount than what was due.

Mr. McDermott—And I paid it, and hold the receipt.

It was ordered that the solicitor to the commissioners be instructed to procure from Messrs. Moore and Russell the sum mentioned above, to be lodged to the credit of the commissioners.

THE TOWN LIGHTING.

Mr. Metcalfe complained that nothing was done in connection with the erection of two lamps in Quality-row. They had the pipes and everything ready, and he did not see why the work was not carried out.

Mr. O'Neill—We must go against the gas company.

Mr. McDermott—The summer is coming on now, and I suppose they will be put off again.

Mr. Metcalfe—I cannot see the cause of the delay at all.

Mr. McDermott—I must say it is a great disregard of the orders of this board.

Clerk—The gas company are to lay down 250 yards of a main. We shall have the lamps put up this month. I want to have a lamp at Mr. Buckley's corner, and another at Mr. Madden's.

Mr. McDermott—I approve of one being put up at Mr. Madden's corner.

Mr. Metcalfe—We should put up the two passed a year ago first.

Mr. McDermott—We had a letter from Mr. Turpin some time ago complaining of the lighting of the town, and stating that a new lamp should be placed between every two of the existing ones. I would not go as far as that, but I would put lamps where they were absolutely necessary.

Mr. Metcalfe said the town was one of the worst lighted in the country.

Mr. Hipwell thought it was not so bad as some other towns.

It was ordered that, in addition to the two lamps in Quality-row, one should be erected at Mr. Buckley's and another at Mr. Madden's corner.

The meeting then adjourned.

EPH'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.

"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected COCOA, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—Civil Service Gazette. —Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold only in packets, by Grocers, labelled—"JAMES EPPS & CO., Homoeopathic Chemists, London."

MOUNTMELLICK BOARD OF GUARDIANS.—DIANS.—SATURDAY.

Present—Messrs. E. S. Smyth (in the chair), W. H. Cobbe, W. D. Pattison, S. Gallagher, J. Lawlor, T. Morrin, W. Delaney, J. Conroy, J. Kinsella.

STATE OF THE HOUSE.

Remaining since last week, 267; admitted, 41; born, 0; discharged, 42; died, 2; remaining this week, 264; corresponding week last year, 257; number in infirmary, 60; do. in fever hospital, 15; cost of provisions received, £34 19s. 7d.; do. consumed, £50 3s. 9d.; general average cost in hall, 3s. 8d.; do. in infirmary, 5s. 2d.; do. in fever hospital, 6s. 9d.; rates collected and lodged, £114 16s. 6d.; rates outstanding, £1,608 2s. 7d.; balance in favour of guardians, £288 8s. 9d.; cost of outdoor relief, £35.

REMUNERATION.

The Local Government Board wrote sanctioning the proposed payment of £2 2s. per week to Dr. Moloney as temporary substitute for Dr. Neale.

THE LATE MR. THOMAS COBBE.

Mrs. M. Cobbe wrote thanking the guardians for their kind vote of sympathy on the death of her husband.

DR. NEALE.

Dr. Neale wrote that he would not be able to resume duty for another week, and it was ordered that Dr. Moloney continue to discharge his duties.

MR. METCALFE'S CONTRACT.

On the reading of the minutes Mr. Pattison said the Clerk of Works should give his reasons for refusing a certificate in the case of Mr. Metcalfe's contract.

The Clerk said he had got no instructions to ask his reasons.

Mr. Cobbe thought Mr. Keegan should not be allowed to put in a letter stating that Metcalfe may have been asked by a guardian to slight his work. The letter should go on the minutes, and Metcalfe's letter should also go on to show that there was untruthfulness on either side.

On the motion of Mr. Pattison the clerk was directed to write to Mr. Keegan asking for his reasons for refusing to certify for Mr. Metcalfe's contract in the Coolrain district.

Mr. Cobbe thought respectable contractors should be treated fairly.

The Clerk said he would put Mr. Metcalfe's letter on the minutes of this week with a note saying it was omitted from last week's minutes.

Subsequently Mr. Metcalfe's letter (published last week) was read and put on the minutes.

The Clerk said Local Government Board Inspector had reported that the ridge tiles were not properly set on Mr. Metcalfe's cottages.

SHEEP SCAB.

Sheep scab was reported from the following farms:—Representations of G. Sawyer, Derrycarew; Mr. James Dunno, Kilbrial; Mr. J. Cuddy, Clonhill; Mr. P. Barrington, Glendyne; and J. Sawyer, Killanure.

PLEURO-PNEUMONIA.

Mr. Mahony, V.S., reported that one cow, the property of Mr. H. Smith, J.P., had died on his farm at Castlebrack. It showed signs of pleuro-pneumonia. He (Mr. Mahony) forwarded the lungs to the Veterinary Department where it was proved the animal had died from pleuro-pneumonia.

NEW TENANT FOR A COTTAGE.

Thomas Edge was accepted as tenant for the cottage built on the lands of Mr. Lalor on the division of O'Moore's Forest which was about to be given up by the occupying tenant.

THE AVOLIA COTTAGE—DUNNE V. GUARDIANS.

Mr. J. Byrne, B.S., Carlow, wrote that he had made an inspection of above cottage as requested, and that he was prepared to give evidence when requested. He had also seen the board's solicitor and forwarded him his report.

The Clerk said Mr. Byrne was there on Wednesday and Thursday.

Mr. Cobbe—He did not send us his report, but he came here before he went out and read Mr. Keegan's report.

Clerk—He did.

Mr. Cobbe thought he should not have been allowed to inspect the reports without an order of the board. They had given an order that he was not to come in contact with either parties. It was an extraordinary thing that he should come there to consult the other reports before he went to inspect the cottage. His report was worth nothing.

Mr. Delaney thought he should not be examined in court. He (Mr. Delaney) proposed him, and proposed him on condition that he should come there as an independent engineer.

Mr. Pattison thought it was extraordinary that he should send the report to the solicitor instead of to the board. It was his business to send them the report.

Chairman—Is it not sufficient to send it to our solicitor?

Mr. Pattison—We employed him to examine the cottage and send in his report. He can send it to all the solicitors in the country if he likes.

The Clerk, in reply to Mr. Cobbe, said Mr. Byrne only read the report, he did not take copies of them.

Mr. Gallagher thought that as he did not do what the board required they should dispense with his services.

Mr. Morrin—Did the clerk ask him to send his report here?

Clerk—No.

The Chairman said Mr. Turpin wrote that the trial might come off any minute, and it would be necessary to have the report of an independent engineer for the purpose of defence, and under the circumstances Mr. Byrne was asked to make the inspection at once.

The Clerk said the guardians were unanimous in selecting him last week.

Mr. Conroy said he told Mr. Delaney last week that a Carlow man should not be appointed to inspect for a Carlow man.

Chairman—You did not express that to the board.

Mr. Gallagher—We appointed him to make an independent report without either seeing the Clerk of Works or the contractor.

Mr. Cobbe—Let us ask him for his expenses and his award, and then we will know whether we can examine him or not.

Mr. Gallagher—If you are going to dismiss him you don't want his award.

Mr. Cobbe said he was astonished that any engineer would come to read the reports.

The Clerk said he had asked Mr. Jer. Dunno for the key of the cottage and he said he would not give the key to any man but would go there himself.

Mr. Gallagher—We will dispense with this gentleman's service and give the reasons why.

Mr. Cobbe said they should ask him to send his report by Wednesday, and also his bill of expenses, and then by this day week they could see what was to be done.

Mr. Gallagher thought this question could only be settled by an independent committee of the board.

The Chairman thought it would be wise to let this man go on. He was selected by the guardians.

Mr. Conroy said he had read all the reports of the Clerk of Works, and he was not a fit man to inspect the cottages at all.

IS IT AN ORNAMENT?

Dr. Rice reported that a man named W. Costello had met with an accident by which he had lost an eye, and it was necessary that he should be supplied with a glass eye. He was very poor.

There was also a bill for the eye—17s. The Clerk did not think the guardians could pay this bill when the man did not come into the house.

Mr. Gallagher said there were many poor men who had to do without an eye. They did not want the ratepayers to be ornamenting men in this way.

THE MOUNTRATH PUMPS.

Mr. Henry Barnott, Mountrath, wrote calling the attention of the guardians to the Factory-street pump. It was idle for five weeks and was more like a monument than a pump.

The Clerk said Barnott was formerly a contractor for keeping these pumps in repair but the guardians took out a new contract at last board. The new contractor wanted to be paid quarterly but they could not make an agreement for quarterly payments as the Clerk of Works had refused to inspect them quarterly.

Mr. Delaney said this would give rise to a good many abuses. The contractor might leave the pumps out of repair until near the end of the year if the Clerk of Works did not inspect them.

Mr. Cobbe—Has he not always done it? Clerk—He refuses to do it latterly.

Mr. Cobbe thought it was strange to have an ornamental officer to go about once a year.

Chairman—What will you do? Mr. Delaney said the pumps should be always in working order.

Mr. Gallagher said the contractor should not be out of his money for years if the Clerk of Works does not think fit to inspect the contract.

Mr. Cobbe suggested that they get a written refusal from the Clerk of Works.

Mr. Pattison—The result will be four visits at £1 per visit.

The Clerk said there was an order on the books that no money be paid to any contractor without a certificate from the Clerk of Works. He would draw up a special form of contract for this case.

It was ordered that the Clerk write to Mr. Keegan to know his reason for not inspecting the pumps quarterly.

MOUNTMELLICK RELIEVING OFFICER.

Mr. Sutherland, R.O., applied for some place to pay outdoor relief. He was paying on the church steps for some time past, but the Rev. Mr. Willis objected to that.

Mr. Cobbe said they should give him £2 for an office, as they had done with the others.

It was ordered that Sutherland get £2 a year to provide an office.

MR. KEEGAN'S ACCOUNTS.

The Chairman (Mr. E. S. Smyth) reported that the committee to investigate Mr. Keegan's accounts assembled by order of the Board of Guardians at ten o'clock on Friday, the 5th February,